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Letter dated 30 May 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 16 May 2007 from Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, in his capacity as Facilitator of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire (see annex).

I should be grateful if the letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Johan Verbeke, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 16 May 2007 from the President of Burkina Faso addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

Allow me to express once again my deepest appreciation to you and to the United Nations for the unwavering support that I have been receiving in the discharge of my mission as Facilitator of the process aimed at restoring peace in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

The political stakeholders in the Ivorian crisis have accepted the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and the Additional Agreement of 4 and 26 March 2007, respectively, which have been endorsed by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The United Nations Security Council adopted on 28 March 2007 a statement of its President on Côte d'Ivoire, in which it too endorsed the Agreement.

As part of the follow-up to the Agreement, I convened in Ouagadougou on 11 May 2007 the first meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress that has been achieved, in particular the formation of a new Government, the creation and operationalization of the Integrated Command Centre, the dismantling of the Zone of Confidence, the establishment and deployment of joint units and the adoption, by ordinance, of a new amnesty law.

The Committee also welcomed the support provided by the international community, and in particular by the United Nations Security Council, for the Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

In order to take advantage of the impetus provided by the facilitation process and to ensure the success of the peace and reconciliation process in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, I request your support for the partial and immediate lifting of the embargo on small arms imposed by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 1572 (2004) of 15 November 2004.

This measure will serve mainly to allow the Defence and Security Forces to be equipped for the accomplishment of their mission to maintain law and order.

I wish to reiterate my appreciation for your personal commitment to the restoration of lasting peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire and I am confident that I can count on your support in obtaining a favourable response to this request.

(*Signed*) Blaise **Compaoré**